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CONFIDENTIAL

1. US requests use of French North African airfields--The Department of State has instructed the US Embassy in Paris to ask the French Government to permit unrestricted use of French naval airfields at Bizerta, Oran, and Port Lyautey by planes from US aircraft carriers. In return, the US Navy is prepared to consider favorably the expansion, modernization, and rehabilitation of these installations.
2. UK offer disappoints Norway's Defense Minister--A high UK Foreign Office official has informed US Embassy London that the Norwegian Defense Minister is "very disappointed" that the UK can supply so little equipment to Norway for military needs. The official observed that the UK recognizes the importance of meeting Norwegian defense requirements, but that: (a) practically no surplus of the desired equipment exists; (b) the Norwegian request competes with Britain's own defense needs; and (c) increased production of military equipment would interfere with the export drive. The official expressed the hope that the US would "let the Norwegians down as easily as possible," because it would be "unfortunate" if Norway should conclude that the US and the UK are unable or unwilling to supply its military needs.

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NAVY review(s) completed.

State Department review
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